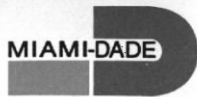


MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA



ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION
33 S.W. 2nd AVENUE
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33130-1540
(305) 372-6789
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Mr. James C. Duck, Chief
Planning Division
Department of the Army
Jacksonville District Corps of Engineers
P. O. Box 4970
Jacksonville, FL 32232-0019

July 20, 1999

RE: Supplement to the 1992 Final Environmental Impact Statement on Modified Water Deliveries to
Everglades National Park for the 8.5 Square Mile Area

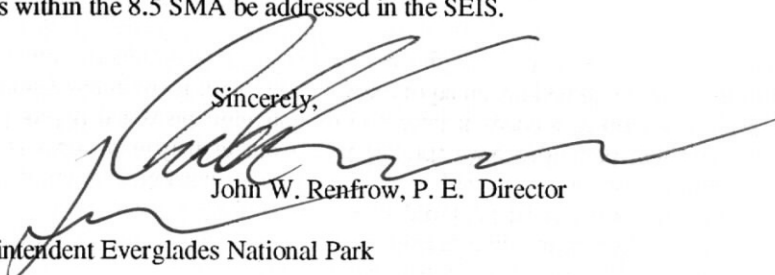
Dear Mr. Duck:

This letter is being sent in response to the scoping letters dated June 3 and July 9, 1999 on the above referenced topic. The June 3rd letter identified several important issues that should be addressed by the supplemental EIS. Of primary concern to Miami-Dade County is the inclusion of secondary, cumulative impacts that may be associated with providing flood protection beyond the level that was provided by the flood mitigation plan. During 1998, Miami-Dade County compiled information on existing and potential land uses in the 8.5 SMA based upon the six alternatives that were identified in the PEER Report. We estimated that it would cost approximately \$155,000,000 or \$146,000 per residential unit to construct a secondary drainage system and roads that would meet minimum county standards if the 8.5 SMA were to be developed at a density of one unit per five acres. We also estimated the amount of local, Countywide and other tax revenue that would be generated to pay for annual O&M costs and special taxing district revenue that could be bonded to pay for the projected capital costs.

During the coming months, Miami-Dade County staff will reevaluate land use information for the 8.5 SMA based upon 1999 aerial photography, 1998 property assessments, building permit data and field verification. We will also recalculate projected capital and annual O&M costs for each of the alternatives that are included in the SEIS, based upon a build out of one unit per five acres. We will provide these data to the Department of the Interior and to the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers and we respectfully request that these updated data be included in the SEIS evaluation of alternatives.

Our 1998 land use data indicate that 28 % (1,575 acres) of the 8.5 SMA is wetlands. Depending upon the alternative that is selected, these lands will be destroyed, impacted or preserved. In addition, there are about 900 acres of vacant lands below the seven foot contour that could potentially be restored to wetlands, depending upon the alternative that is selected. We also request that the potential and cumulative impacts to the existing and potentially restorable wetlands within the 8.5 SMA be addressed in the SEIS.

Sincerely,


John W. Renfrow, P. E. Director

CC: Mr. Richard Ring, Superintendent Everglades National Park